

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats. a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, at 5:15 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Jack Krueger—Chair, Jim Haskins, John Maino, Duane "Snake" Pierce, Sherry Steenbock, John Walschinski.
EXCUSED: Don Bettine, Troy Ness, Kristen Verhaagh.
ALSO PRESENT: Jerry Polus, Joe Witkowski.

1. Call Meeting to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jack Krueger at 5:15 p.m.

2. Invocation by Jim Haskins

3. Approve/Modify Agenda:

A motion was made by S. Steenbock and seconded by J. Walschinski to approve. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. Approve/Modify Minutes of February 9, 2010:

A motion was made by D. Pierce and seconded by J. Haskins to approve. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. Report from CVSO Jerry Polus (if available):

Mr. Polus, Veterans Service Officer, reported that the receptionist has been brought back on a temporary basis; but there is still a backlog because of the high volume of calls, walk-ins, and appointments. He said members of the 127th continue to come in for assistance each day. Mr. Polus added that he will present his updated job description by next month.

Mr. Polus said the monthly program at the ADRC (Aging & Disability Resource Center) continues to be well attended. He stated that there were approximately 70 people in attendance last Friday, when Rolling Thunder performed the Table Ceremony and Flag Folding Ceremony. He opined that this was a great program and that those present enjoyed the experience. Mr. Polus reported that Beth Ann Smith, Program Manager for the VA Medical Center in Milwaukee, will be speaking on VA health care and the Green Bay clinic next month.

Mr. Polus informed those present that he had just returned from Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, where he met with Peter Olk. He explained that Mr. Olk ran Armitage House in DePere, which is transitional housing for veterans. Mr. Polus reported that Mr. Olk expressed an interest in utilizing the old Mental Health Center as a potential site for a nationwide model program called a veterans' service center. Mr. Polus described the vision of this facility as a one-stop shop that would house a variety of services for veterans. He added that this property is in close proximity to the new mega clinic.

Chair Krueger opined that the possibilities are endless and stated that the Facility Master Plan Subcommittee has been apprised of this. He stated that he mentioned this to Congressman Steve Kagen, and Congressman Kagen offered his support.

Mr. Polus said he plans to send information about Armitage and the center in Chippewa Falls to the Subcommittee members with next month's agenda and minutes.

6. Report from Chair Jack Krueger:

At Chair Krueger's request, John Walschinski explained his proposal for a veterans' update section in the "Green Bay Press-Gazette" newspaper. Mr. Walschinski distributed copies of the response from John Dye, Executive Editor, as well as suggestions for a possible reply (attached).

Chair Krueger said Mr. Walschinski's ideas were well received at last month's meeting and asked John Maino for possible options other than the "Press-Gazette." Mr. Maino said there are many other mediums that could be used; and with television the coverage could be just as good especially with the internet aspect. Mr. Maino offered to make the first contact with Fox 11 television station. He stated that the smaller newspapers could be an option as well and suggested including sponsors.

Mr. Maino recommended setting up a website. Mr. Walschinski said he had some contacts who could possibly (1) help with setting up the website; (2) act as spokespersons; and (3) help with advertising. Mr. Polus explained to those present that his office has a website that could be used. He also suggested bringing in speakers monthly to either radio or television who could discuss veterans' issues.

Chair Krueger said he would like to see an approach to Fox 11 and utilizing the Brown County website.

(John Maino left at 6:01 p.m.)

7. Report from Committee Members (Steenbock, Bettine, Haskins, Maino, Pierce, Verhaagh, & Walschinski):

Sherry Steenbock read a thank you letter from a veteran who received a certificate from this Subcommittee (attached). Ms. Steenbock said information will be placed on the certificates using computer software instead of hand-written calligraphy in the future. Mr. Polus opined that these certificates are greatly appreciated by recipients.

Jim Haskins read an article from the Press-Gazette concerning a program entitled "War, Art, and the Vietnam Veteran" which will be held at Heritage Hill from April 13 to May 31, 2010. (See attachment from internet.) Mr. Haskins mentioned two bills sponsored by Congressman Kagen: Bill 3548 is for first-time homebuyers' tax credit for men/women serving overseas; and Bill 2352 is for job creation for returning veterans. Mr. Haskins added that the three certificates he delivered were very well received.

Duane Pierce noted an article concerning a man doing a 2,650 mile trek from Jacksonville (Florida) to San Diego (California) who is hoping to collect \$400,000 to help the DAV (Disabled American Veterans). He reported a recent news story concerning Mark Finnegan (of Finnegan's RV Center in South Beloit, WI) who has started a non-profit organization called "Vetsroll;" and on May 17, 2010, Vetsroll will

take eight RV's and two charter buses with 128 veterans to see the WWII Memorial in Washington, DC. Mr. Pierce stated that Rolling Thunder Chapter 4 will be doing a Table Ceremony at the VFW in Wausau on March 20, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. He also said on March 27, 2010, Thuy Smith (of Thuy Smith International Outreach) and Channel 13 are putting on a program in Eau Claire that afternoon and a dinner that evening to honor Vietnam veterans; he added that Thuy Smith has a website with additional information.

Mr. Walschinski stated that he still believes in the program for creating access and providing information for senior veterans. He added that this could help Mr. Polus as well as the veterans and their families. He said he agrees with Mr. Maino that television and the internet are the venue to use.

8. Such other Matters as Authorized by Law: None.

9. Adjourn:

A motion was made by J. Haskins and seconded by J. Walschinski to adjourn at 6:14 p.m. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Alexander
Recording Secretary

JSW Veterans Subcom. MEMO **DATE: February 28, 2010**

TO: Jack Krueger / Chair
Brown County Veterans Recog. Subcom. Members

FM: John S. Walschinski / Subcom. Member

Subj : Response from Mr. John Dye of the Green Bay Press Gazette re:
Veterans Up-Date Section Presentation

Jack,
Attached is a response to my Veterans Up-Date section from John Dye, Executive Editor of the Press Gazette.

The following is a draft of ideas a response to Mr. John Dye, Before I or we would send it to Mr. Dye, essentially saying, because of their limited staff, we would provide the info for a monthly section in their Sunday paper. Realizing our goal is every Sunday.

Primarily, we need the Press Gazette as a forum to keep our Veterans and their families and have access & Veterans Up-Dates Here & Overseas on their benrfits, health care, Info from our VSO, Organization & other vets eveents & etc.

As I stated this is a reasonable goal that will

- 1. Increase their readership and bottom line**
- 2. Create a Monthly Sunday Veterans Up-Date section w/ a goal of every Sunday.**

They print it, we do all the hard work. Provide the info from the VSO Offices, our Subcommittee and Veterans Organizations. Also provide sponsors to support our Vets Up-Date section.

In this way the Press Gazette is covered regarding a limited staff. I know, we appreciate the articles they do on Veterans & their families, but at the same time, their focus is on sports, breaking news, business activity, crafts & liesure time & etc. We are providing an offer they can't refuse. A way for the Press Gazette to produce a Veterans Up-Date Sunday Section. Namely because we will provide the info by doing all the hard work which will cover for their limited staff. Our goal is to have them conclude this is a win, win for their newspaper.

Also we should as a subcommittee offer to meet with Mr. Dye either at the Press Gazette or have him meet with us at our monthly meeting in the Northern Building or anyplace convenient for Mr. Dye.

If not, we should seek other venues out there. Realizing the Press Gazette has the forum and readership we need to reach our goal. Inform our Vets. Sometimes you use another venue in order to reach your real goal. For example the Green Bay Sun newspaper. What are your thoughts and ideas?

Respecfully,

John S. Walschinski
Viet Nam Vet / US Army Ranger

Please see attached

GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE

John Dye, Executive Editor
jdye@greenbaypressgazette.com

www.greenbaypressgazette.com

February 23, 2010

John S. Walschinski
1936 Harold St.
Green Bay, WI 54302

Dear Mr. Walschinski:

As the executive editor of the Green Bay Press-Gazette, it was my privilege to review the thoughtful material you shared with Kevin Corrado, president and publisher of the newspaper. First, I want to thank you for your very encouraging words about our efforts to report on veterans.

Sometimes we get so close to our work here that we lose perspective. Reviewing our efforts to report on the plight of veterans was helpful.

And while I like the thinking behind a weekly section dedicated to veterans, I do not believe our staff could produce it in such a way that we could maintain the quality of the material you submitted. I think we can best shine a light on the contributions and sacrifices of our veterans by continuing to do news and feature stories when they are appropriate and as we have done in the past. *limited*

Certainly, the upcoming LZ Lambeau project will give our newspaper many opportunities to focus public attention on the plight of Viet Nam era veterans and we plan special coverage of those events.

I am returning the material you sent us and I again want to thank you for your constructive suggestions and for sharing your passion for veterans with us.

I wish you the very best.

Sincerely,


John Dye
Executive Editor

Enclosure

cc: Kevin Corrado

Phone 920-431-8377
Fax 920-431-8379



P.O. Box 23430 Green Bay, WI 54305-3430
435 East Walnut St., Green Bay, WI 54301

Jim Smales
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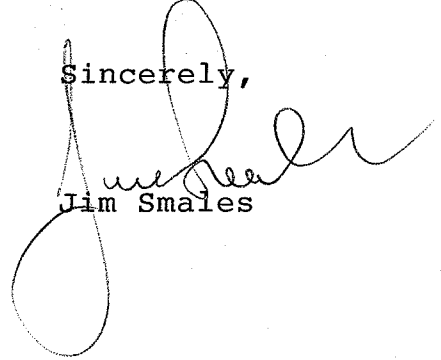
Sherry Steenbock
1210 Echo Lane
Green Bay, WI. 54304

Dear Sherry:

14 January 2010

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the beautiful certificate I received in the mail this morning. It came as a complete surprise. I'm going to have it framed tomorrow.

Sincerely,


Jim Smales



Vietnam vets' art to be shown at Heritage Hill

February 25, 2010

ALLOUEZ — Veterans of the Vietnam War will share their personal stories through a new art exhibit coming this spring to Heritage Hill State Historical Park.

"War, Art and the Vietnam Veteran" opens April 13 and is scheduled to continue until May 31 at the park, 2640 S. Webster Ave.

It will feature artwork created by Vietnam veterans to tell the story of their experiences in the war and their homecomings back in the United States.

Admission to the exhibit will be \$5, although veterans will get in free.

Scheduled as a guest speaker May 5 and May 6 is Sammy L. Davis, a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient whose story was inspiration for the movie "Forrest Gump."

The exhibit is planned to coincide with LZ Lambeau (Landing Zone Lambeau), a special event planned in May at Lambeau Field to honor Vietnam veterans.

Advertisement



Mom Dilemma #36:
Your daughter insists on wearing her princess costume to the grocery store. Allow it or not?

YES, at least she's dressed!

NO, I have some rules!

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